

# Community-Initiated Public Art Program



## PURPOSE

Community-driven public art strengthens social cohesion, beautifies our city, and enriches the lives of our residents! The Community Initiated Public Art program provides a pathway for community members to secure needed approvals for completing a public art project.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Private property owners, artists, organizations or residents based in Iowa City.

## FUNDING

Generally, Community Initiated Art Projects are supported largely or entirely by an alternative funding source. If you are in need of funding support, please review your eligibility for the Iowa City Public Art Matching Grant Program.

## WHAT TO CONSIDER

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) values...

- Supporting the livelihood of artists: it is encouraged that artists are compensated for their time, expertise, and materials.
- Equity in public art: attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion is encouraged. This includes the artist completing the work or other individuals participating.
- Participation and access to the arts: Projects are encouraged to consider adding a participatory element (design process, installation process, interactive viewing, etc.).

## APPROVAL PROCESS

1. **Obtain Location Permission(s):** Before applying, applicants should seek preliminary permissions from the property owner of where the project is desired to be located:
  - Public property (i.e. park, sidewalk, etc.): must be approved by the City. Please contact the Public Art Coordinator for assistance coordinating appropriate departmental approvals.
  - Private property located within public ROW: must be authorized by both the property owner and the City. Please note that some "private property" elements, such as retaining walls, may actually be located within the public right-of-way; please contact the Iowa City Public Art Coordinator at 319-356-5248 or [publicart@iowa-city.org](mailto:publicart@iowa-city.org) if you are unsure if you need City approval.

2. **Submit Application:** Submit the [Community Initiated Public Art Program Application](#).
3. **Staff Review:** The Public Art Coordinator will review the application and coordinate other departmental reviews or Public Art Advisory Committee review (if necessary):
  - If a project is located on public property, within public right-of-way, or receiving any Public Art funds, the project design must be approved by the Public Art Advisory Committee.
  - Project materials must be quality, appropriate, and safe to the public. Artist(s) should have sufficient experience to demonstrate proficiency in executing the project well.
4. **Public Art Agreement:** The Public Art Coordinator will work with the applicant to execute a grant agreement which will include details such as maintenance obligations, authorized location, and more.

## CONTACT

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Kilburg Varley, Public Art Coordinator at [publicart@iowa-city.org](mailto:publicart@iowa-city.org) or 319-356-5248.